

Claims

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1. A method of isolating nucleic acid from a sample, said method comprising contacting said sample with a detergent and a solid support, whereby soluble nucleic acid in said sample is bound to the support, and separating said support with bound nucleic acid from the sample.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is RNA.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an additional step to isolate RNA from the sample.
5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising one or more additional steps to disrupt structural components in the sample or to achieve lysis of cells in the sample.
6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the detergent is anionic.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the detergent is sodium dodecyl sulphate, or another alkali metal alkylsulphate salt, or sarkosyl.
8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the concentration of detergent is 0.2 to 30% (w/v).
9. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the detergent is contained in a composition additionally comprising one or more monovalent cations, chelating agents or reducing agents.

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10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the detergent is used in alkaline solution.

5 11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the solid support is particulate.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solid support comprises magnetic beads.

10 13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the solid support has a hydrophobic surface.

15 14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the nucleic acid is eluted from the support, following separation from the sample.

15. ~~A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid is eluted by heating.~~

20 16. A kit for isolating nucleic acid from a sample, comprising a solid support and one or more detergents as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13.

25 17. A kit as claimed in claim 16, further comprising one or more buffers, salts, lysis agents, chelating agents and/or reducing agents.

30 18. A kit as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17, further comprising means for isolating RNA.

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B3

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C3

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D6